

IN THE CLAIMS:

The current claims follow. For claims not marked as amended in this response, any difference in the claims below and the previous state of the claims is unintentional and in the nature of a typographical error.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving, in a data processing system, an electronic mail message;
determining if the electronic mail message includes an intro-word;
if the electronic mail message includes the intro-word, then delivering the electronic mail message and adding an address corresponding to a sender of the electronic mail message to a list of valid senders, and also delivering at least one previously stored message that does not include the intro-word; and
storing the electronic mail message if the electronic mail message is not delivered.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the intro-word is located in a subject line of the electronic mail message.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic mail message is also delivered if the email address of a sender of the electronic mail message is on an authorized sender list.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic mail message is also delivered if the domain name of a sender of the electronic mail message is on an authorized domain list.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising, if the electronic mail message does not include the intro-word, then sending a confirmation message to the sender of the electronic mail message.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
receiving a response mail message corresponding to the confirmation message;
delivering the electronic mail message if the response mail message includes the
intro-word; and
storing the electronic mail message if the response mail message does not include
the intro-word.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
receiving a response corresponding to the confirmation message via an Internet
connection;
delivering the electronic mail message if the response includes the intro-word; and
storing the electronic mail message if the response does not include the intro-word.
8. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising sending an obscured image of
the intro-word to the sender.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising sending the intro-
word to the sender in a non-computer harvestable form.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising deleting the stored electronic
mail message after a predetermined amount of time.

11. (Currently Amended) A data processing system comprising: at least a processor and accessible memory, the data processing system configured to
- receive an electronic mail message;
 - determine if the electronic mail message includes an intro-word;
 - deliver the electronic mail message and add an address corresponding to a sender of the electronic mail message to a list of valid senders if the electronic mail message includes the intro-word, and to also deliver at least one previously stored message that does not include the intro-word; and
 - store the electronic mail message if the electronic mail message is not delivered.
12. (Original) The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the intro-word is located in a subject line of the electronic mail message.
13. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the data processing system is further configured to deliver the electronic mail message if the email address of a sender of the electronic mail message is on an authorized sender list.
14. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the data processing system is further configured to deliver the electronic mail message if the domain name of a sender of the electronic mail message is on an authorized domain list.
15. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the data processing system is further configured to send a confirmation message to the sender of the electronic mail message if the electronic mail message does not include the intro-word.

16. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the data processing system is further configured to
receive a response mail message corresponding to the confirmation message;
deliver the electronic mail message if the response mail message includes the intro-word; and
store the electronic mail message if the response mail message does not include the intro-word.
17. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the data processing system is further configured to
receive a response corresponding to the confirmation message via an Internet connection;
deliver the electronic mail message if the response includes the intro-word; and
store the electronic mail message if the response does not include the intro-word.
18. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the data processing system is further configured to send an obscured image of the intro-word to the sender.
19. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 15, further comprising means for sending the intro-word to the sender in a non-computer harvestable form.
20. (Previously Presented) The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the data processing system is further configured to delete the stored electronic mail message after a predetermined amount of time.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product tangibly embodied in a machine-readable medium, comprising:

instructions for receiving, in a data processing system, an electronic mail message;
instructions for determining if the electronic mail message includes an intro-word;
instructions for delivering the electronic mail message and adding an address corresponding to a sender of the electronic mail message to a list of valid senders if the electronic mail message includes the intro-word, and instructions for also delivering at least one previously stored message that does not include the intro-word; and

instructions for storing the electronic mail message if the electronic mail message is not delivered.

22. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the intro-word is located in a subject line of the electronic mail message.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising instructions for delivering the electronic mail message also if the email address of a sender of the electronic mail message is on an authorized sender list.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising instructions for delivering the electronic mail message also if the domain name of a sender of the electronic mail message is on an authorized domain list.

25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising instructions for sending a confirmation message to the sender of the electronic mail message if the electronic mail message does not include the intro-word.

26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:
instructions for receiving a response mail message corresponding to the confirmation message;
instructions for delivering the electronic mail message if the response mail message includes the intro-word; and
instructions for storing the electronic mail message if the response mail message does not include the intro-word.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:
instructions for receiving a response corresponding to the confirmation message via an Internet connection;
instructions for delivering the electronic mail message if the response includes the intro-word; and

instructions for storing the electronic mail message if the response does not include the intro-word.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising instructions for sending an obscured image of the intro-word to the sender.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising instructions for sending the intro-word to the sender in a non-computer harvestable form.

30. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising instructions for deleting the stored electronic mail message after a predetermined amount of time.